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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

29 JANUARY 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Fresno – UPS Driver Shot on Highway 99

(U) California Highway Patrol officers are investigating after a UPS driver was shot while traveling on Highway 99 in Tulare County. Investigators say someone opened fire on the truck, hitting the driver. He called for help and then pulled off into a nearby gas station. The victim was taken to a hospital and is expected to survive. Officers found five bullet holes in the UPS truck. Investigators believe the same suspect fired shots at a second driver's truck. The CHP is still trying to determine a motive, but officers say there's no indication right now that it was related to road rage.

SOURCE: 27 January 2021, ABC 30

(U) Napa – Man Allegedly Caught with Pipe Bombs Plotted Attacks, had Right Wing Militia Ties

(U) Napa businessman Ian Benjamin Rogers, arrested earlier this month after federal authorities found explosive devices and an arsenal of weapons at his home and business, had plans to attack the State Capitol, Twitter and Facebook, driven by his false belief that President Donald Trump won the November 2020 election. Authorities say he is being investigated for possible ties to a far-right militia known as the Three Percenters. Rogers was formally charged Tuesday by federal authorities with possession of five pipe bombs found by local law enforcement officers and agents during a search of his auto repair business on 15 January. Officers also seized dozens of firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition from his business and home.

SOURCE: 28 January 2021, CBS SF BayArea

(U) Rocklin – Authorities Arrest Suspect for Participation in US Capitol Riot

(U) A Rocklin man believed to have posted his participation in the US Capitol riot on Facebook has been arrested. Tommy Frederick Allan is facing charges related to violent entry or disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, entering a restricted building or grounds, and damage or theft of federal property, the federal complaint states. The affidavit said Allan tried taking government documents he claimed were from Senator Mitch McConnel's desk and trying to steal an American flag from the Capitol. The FBI became aware of Allan's actions after a person sent in a tip alleging his participation in the 6 January insurrection.

SOURCE: 27 January 2021, MSN

(U) San Francisco - Man Suspected of Helping Lead Major Drug Trafficking Organization Pleads Guilty

(U) A man who, along with other members of his family, helped lead a suspected drug trafficking organization that federal authorities say offered housing to people who worked for them as street dealers, entered a guilty plea Wednesday afternoon. Victor "Mojarra" Viera-Chirinos pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine base, and cocaine. Viera-Chirinos was named by federal authorities as a high-ranking member of an organization led by his brother, Eduardo Viera-Chirinos, that shipped drugs from Los Angeles to Livermore, then distributed them around the Bay Area and as far north as Seattle.

SOURCE: 28 January 2021, The Mercury News

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(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia - DHS Warns of Heightened Risk Posed by Domestic Violent Extremists

(U) Washington DC – On Wednesday DHS warned the US may face heightened threats from "ideologically-motivated violent extremists" in the wake of President Biden's inauguration. DHS warned that domestic violent extremists (DVEs) would continue to express opposition to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 election results and "other perceived grievances fueled by false narratives." "DHS is concerned these same drivers to violence will remain through early 2021 and some DVEs may be emboldened by the 6 January breach of the US Capitol Building in Washington, DC to target elected officials and government facilities."

SOURCE: 27 January 2021, The Hill

(U) Florida – Department of Justice Launches Global Action Against NetWalker Ransomware

(U)Tampa – The Department of Justice today announced a coordinated international law enforcement action to disrupt a sophisticated form of ransomware known as NetWalker. NetWalker ransomware has impacted numerous victims, including companies, municipalities, hospitals, law enforcement, emergency services, school districts, colleges, and universities. Attacks have specifically targeted the healthcare sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, taking advantage of the global crisis to extort victims. The action includes charges against a Canadian national in relation to NetWalker ransomware attacks in which tens-of-millions of dollars were allegedly obtained, the seizure of approximately \$454,530.19 in cryptocurrency from ransom payments, and the disablement of a dark web hidden resource used to communicate with NetWalker ransomware victims.

SOURCE: 27 January 2021, <u>Justice.gov</u>

(U) Ohio – US Secures Indictment Against Oath Keeper Members for Plot to Storm US Capitol

(U) Urbana – The US has secured an indictment against three members of the far-right "Oath Keepers" militia, charging they conspired to storm the US Capitol in a bid to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden's presidential election victory. The indictment alleges that Jessica Marie Watkins, 38, Donovan Ray Crowl, 50, and Thomas Caldwell, 65, conspired as far back as November to obstruct Congress, a charge that can carry a maximum prison sentence of 20-years. The trio were previously charged by criminal complaint, and all three were ordered detained after magistrate judges ruled they posed a danger to the community and should be held without bond.

SOURCE: 27 January 2021, Reuters

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Ukraine – Ukraine Opens Criminal Case into Meddling in US Election

(U) Kyiv – Ukraine has launched a criminal investigation into attempts to interfere in the US presidential election, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's office said in a statement on the presidential website. Andriy Yermak, the head of Zelenskiy's office, said Ukraine would do everything in its power to bring to justice forces within the country and outside who tried to damage relations between Ukraine and the United States. The US in January imposed sanctions on several Ukrainian individuals and entities, accusing them of US election interference and associating with a pro-Russian Ukrainian lawmaker linked to efforts by then President Donald Trump's allies to find derogatory information on Joe Biden and his son. SOURCE: 28 January 2021, Reuters

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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